

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 194801

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194801

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RE CONAKRY 1538 ON GUINEAN DECISION TO END TU-95 RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS FROM CONAKRY, SOMEONE MIGHT TRY TO DETERMINE WHETHER TERMINATION OF FLIGHTS WAS AT SOVIET OR GUINEAN REQUEST, WHETHER FLIGHTS FROM HAVANA WILL CONTINUE AND WHETHER THE SOVIETS PLAN TO USE ALTERNATE WEST AFRICAN AIRFIELDS FOR FLIGHTS.

2. VARIOUS SOVIET STATEMENTS ON ARMS CONTROL HAVE REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR BANNING ESTABLISHMENT OF QUOTE MILITARY BASES UNQUOTE OVERSEAS (E.G., BREZHNEV'S STATEMENTS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN). WE WOULD APPRECIATE SOME REPORTING ON WHAT THE CURRENT SOVIET DEFINITION IS OF A QUOTE MILITARY BASE UNQUOTE. IN CONVERSATION WITH SOVIETS AND IN REPORTING, YOU SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, TIE YOUR REMARKS TO ANY SPECIFIC SOVIET INITIATIVE.

3. BILL BROWN SAYS THAT AT THE END OF A TELEPHONE CONVERSA-  
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PAGE 02 STATE 194801

TION WITH IGOR CHERCHENKO OF HYDROMET LAST WEEK ON VARIOUS

DETAILS OF PROJECT-LEVEL ACTIVITIES, CHERCHENKO TOLD BROWN THAT NOV 15 BEGINNING FOR JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (WHICH SOVIETS FIRST PROPOSED DURING EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES MEETING IN MOSCOW) IS COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE TO IZRAEL BUT SOVIETS NEED CONFIRMATION FROM US. BROWN TOLD CHERCHENKO THAT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM DATE FOR J-C MEETING, ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY HOPED IT COULD BEGIN THEN. BROWN HAS AGREED TO REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING OR EXPRESSING PERSONAL VIEWS ON POLITICALLY SENSITIVE MATTERS SUCH AS TIMING OF J-C MEETING ON THE TELEPHONE AND WITHOUT OUR CLEARANCE.

4. ARE YOU PREPARING A RESPONSE TO STATE 175239 ON THE EFFECT OF CSCE AND ECPC ON SOV-EE RELATIONS OR DO YOU PASS? WE'RE NOT PUSHING, JUST WONDERING AS WE PLAN TO DO A WRAPUP OF RESPONSES.

5. THE REPORT ON THE VIEWS OF THE SOLE SURVIVING SOVIET KREMLINOLOGIST WAS AS ALWAYS FASCINATING. HE PROVIDES VIEWPOINTS AND INSIGHTS WHICH PROVIDE AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO OUR THINKING EVEN IF WE MAY BE SKEPTICAL ABOUT SOME OF HIS SPECIFIC POINTS. KEEP IT COMING. FRENCH REPORT ON TACTICS IN DEALING WITH ZARODOV WAS ALSO INTERESTING INSIGHT. ARE YOUR FELLOWS ABLE TO GET ANY FRANK TALK FROM PRAVDA JOURNALISTS THESE DAYS?

6. REF MOSCOW 12323 RE KHARCHENKO INCIDENT. IF THE PRESS KEEPS PUSHING YOU ON US RESPONSE TO MFA NOTE, SUGGEST YOU MERELY DEFER TO WASHINGTON. FYI. WE ARE STILL MULLING OVER WHETHER TO RESPOND AND, IF SO, HOW.

7. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE TRANSCRIPT OF TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING, BUT IN ANY CASE THE GUIDANCE ON ALLEGED PNE VIOLATION (SEPTTEL) IS GOVERNING SINCE SPOKESMAN APPARENTLY WENT SOMEWHAT ASTRAY. HABIB

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